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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

13 November 1952

STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 287

SUBJECT: Ground Casualties in Recent Korean Fighting

1. In Staff Memorandum No. 274 the following figures on UN and enemy casualties were presented for the period 24 August-21 September.

	<u>US</u>	<u>ROK</u>	<u>Enemy</u>
Killed in Action	289	596	6,477
Wounded in Action	1,406	1,836	7,009
Missing in Action	<u>238</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>78</u> (POW's)
Totals	1,932	2,495	13,564
Total US-ROK 4,427			

2. Ground action since the period covered by the above summary continued to follow the pattern of intensive, limited objective attacks by the opposing forces. As indicated in the following table, however, casualties were much heavier over the past month.

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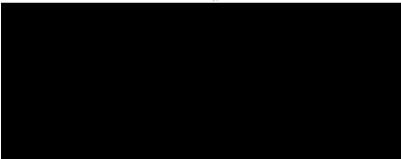
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GROUND CASUALTIES IN KOREA FOR PERIOD
6 October - 5 November*

	<u>US**</u>	<u>ROK</u>	<u>Enemy</u>
Killed in Action	526	2,673	23,099
Wounded in Action	3,514	9,925	13,689
Missing in Action	<u>229</u>	<u>1,196</u>	<u>235</u> (POW's)
Totals	4,289	13,794	37,023
Total US-ROK	18,083		

3. The heavy ground action of the past month was occasioned in large part by the limited UN offensive of mid-October along the central front which was undertaken in conjunction with the amphibious feint at Wonson. Possibly anticipating a major UN attack, the enemy reacted strongly to the UN seizure of several terrain features and the heaviest enemy artillery fire of the Korean war occurred during the subsequent fighting. Casualties on both sides were much heavier during this period than those reported previously, especially among several ROK Divisions holding portions of the central front. Beyond the fact that the enemy is prepared to accept heavy casualties and expend substantial quantities of ammunition of all types in order to hold his present positions along the front, the pattern of ground activity provides no special indications of Communist intentions in Korea with respect either to a cease fire or future military operations.

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Casualties figures compiled by
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* As reported by 8th Army and Far East Command in daily cables covering military operations in Korea.

** Figures for 29 October not available.